Mr. President.—With regard to present rules, we have gone far beyond.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—If there are a large number of vexatious cases coming under this category, I can understand. Here there is only one case.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).—In view of the orders making eligibility for University course sufficient for public service, there is no harm in accepting.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—The percentage for a pass in English was 35 for eligibility for the University course. For eligibility for public service it was 40 per cent. That is why eligibility for University course was not considered for public service. The University has now raised the minimum to 40% in English. There is therefore no difficulty. Eligibility for University course is now eligibility for public Service.

Mr. President.—If the Hon'ble Member wants to move the resolution in the original form, Government will accept it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*— Then I shall prefer the original resolution.

Mr. President.—The resolution is accepted.

Resolution was accepted by Government.

13. Speedy execution of approved irrigation schemes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—*"This Council recommends to the Government to take up and execute without any further delay all irrigation schemes whose preliminary investigations have been completed".*

* Sir, the importance of irrigation for the development of the resources in an agricultural country like ours is well known and I don't think that a speech on the point is necessary. The question of irrigation loomed very large particularly at one time, some five or six years back. In the early years of this Council, one of the most important questions that was discussed here was Irrigation. In those days we could hear only of irrigation, more irrigation and so on, and we were asking for more allotments the irrigation works. The Government were satisfied then with our demands. I remember days when they

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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used to provide lump allotments of Rs. 2 lakhs and 3 lakhs for irrigation works in the absence of definite schemes investigated and ready for taking action. As a result of incessant pressure brought by this House upon the Government, we compelled them or rather Government appointed a special staff called the Irrigation staff. A special Engineer was appointed to investigate the various schemes of irrigation in the State. I hope it was in 1107 or so that a special staff was appointed. An assistant Engineer on a salary of Rs. 400 was appointed to investigate all the schemes. He was put in charge of the irrigation schemes of Chittoor. Formerly there was an overseer or so looking after the irrigation systems of Chittur. Subsequent to the appointment of that Engineer, a staff of two officers and I think further staff also which involved a cost of about one thousand rupees a month was appointed. This staff investigated a good number of schemes. I do not know the exact number of schemes that have been got prepared. I had questions on it and I do not exactly remember if any question is pending now, but I wish to ask the Hon'ble Member for Engineering to tell us the number of schemes that have been investigated from 1107, that is, from the date of appointment of the special staff. The number of schemes that have been investigated and found practicable, the number of schemes that were executed out of this number investigated—may I have that information, so that I may continue? I may be informed as to the number of schemes that are ready to be taken up and the probable cost involved and also the number of schemes taken up during the last six years so that the House may know whether they are very seriously tackling the question.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—I shall read out the scheme of the special staff, but will there be interruptions?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—I don't want to know the merits of those schemes.

Mr. President.—I would suggest for the convenience of the Hon'ble Members in future that in the case of such resolutions, where they want official information, which will enable them to proceed with the resolution, they should address the officers concerned and get it from them. Now the Chief Engineer may not have it in the exact form as the Hon'ble Member wants it. The Hon'ble Member may continue his speech.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—Some Members have availed themselves of that facility even now.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—So far as I am aware and my enquiry goes, they have investigated between 10 to 50 schemes in the course of the last 5 years and they have taken up only four or five out of them. I am sure that more than 30 schemes are ready to be taken up for execution. My object in tabling this motion is to bring home to the Government the imperative necessity of taking up those schemes. I don't say that all those schemes should be taken up immediately on a particular day. But I say that as many of them as could possibly be undertaken without inconvenience to the Department or to the staff available should be taken up because that is one of the sure ways to improve the development of the resources of the State. We are well aware that our population is increasing. I think in the last census it has increased by about 25 per cent. from 10 to 12½ lakhs. Whatever that be, we are able to cultivate lands and the products of our fields will give us food only for four months of the year. We have yet to import food from outside for the remaining eight months of the year. There is also the large question of unemployment. There is the other question of poverty in the State. The only question that stands in the way of the Government taking up such schemes can possibly be that of want of funds. I say that a question of this nature should not stand in the way of the Government. It has always been the excuse, in the words of a big man, of incompetent persons. My experience with the present Government also is that if the Government really wants to do a thing, if they make up their minds to do anything, the question of finance has not stood in the way. They have never pleaded financial stringency in their cases. My attempt, Sir, is to drive home to you the imperative necessity of taking up all these schemes, at least as many schemes as could be taken up, as early as possible. With these few words, I commend the resolution to the acceptance of this House.

The House stood adjourned at 4-55 p. m.

B. V. Krishnankutty Menon,

Secretary to the Council.

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